

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release July 28, 1978

FOUR FEDERAL AGENCIES SIGN AGREEMENT TO SHARE RESOURCE INFORMATION

Four Federal land and resource managing agencies today announced signing of an agreement to cooperate in collection of natural resources data and in the design and operation of systems to assure that information is available to local and state governments as well as Federal agencies for natural resource management purposes.

The agreement establishes objectives for developing standard definitions and units of measure to simplify exchange of information among the agencies.

The four agencies are the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service. Each of the agencies is under a legislative mandate to study and assess U.S. land resources under their jurisdiction.

Information to be exchanged covers such resources as forest, rangelands, water, soil, vegetation, and wildlife. Initially, coordination among the agencies will focus on inventory methods, a land and resource classification system, analysis techniques to project future trends, and mapping to prescribed standards.

The management improvement effort is designed to better utilize Federal funding for such work by developing compatible resource inventory standards and data systems. Management tools to be used include systems analysis, remote sensing by using satellites and aerial photography, and automatic data processing.

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